

**AMENDED CLAIM SET:**

1. (currently amended) A lithium based battery comprising a battery container containing therein:

a cell structure group formed by stacking unit cells each including a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a separator interposed therebetween, or formed by repeatedly folding or winding an integral body of said unit cells; ~~a battery container for containing said cell structure group; and~~

an electrolyte, which is poured in said battery container after said cell structure group is contained in said battery container,

wherein the outer peripheral surface of said battery container is covered with a separate ion impermeable and extensible high polymer sheet having a tensile elongation percentage of 1 % or more, the tensile elongation of the battery container cover sheet being selected to cause the sheet to provide insulation between positive and negative electrodes of the battery when the container is deformed.

2. (currently amended) A lithium based battery according to claim 1, wherein the outer periphery of said cell structure group is covered with an ion impermeable and extensible high polymer sheet having a tensile elongation percentage of 1 % or more, the tensile elongation of the cell structure group cover

sheet being selected to cause the sheet to provide insulation between positive and negative electrodes of the battery when the container is deformed.

3. (currently amended) A lithium based battery comprising a battery container containing therein:

a cell structure group formed by stacking unit cells each including a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a separator interposed therebetween, or formed by repeatedly folding or winding an integral body of said unit cells; ~~a battery container for containing said cell structure group;~~ and

an electrolyte, which is poured in said battery container after said cell structure group is contained in said battery container,

wherein the outer peripheral surface of said battery container is covered with ~~an~~ a separate ion impermeable and extensible high polymer sheet having a tensile elongation percentage of 1 % or more, the tensile elongation of the battery container cover sheet being selected to cause the sheet to provide insulation between positive and negative electrodes of the battery when the container is deformed, and wherein also the outer periphery of said cell structure group is covered with ~~said~~ an ion impermeable and extensible high polymer sheet having a tensile elongation percentage of 1 % or more.

4. (currently amended) A lithium based battery according to claim 3, wherein said positive electrode and said negative electrode of each of said unit

cells are respectively formed on one surface of a positive collector and one surface of a negative collector in such a manner as to face to each other with said separator put therebetween; and

an ion impermeable and extensible high polymer sheet having a tensile elongation percentage of 1 % or more is disposed between adjacent two of said unit cells and/or on the outer peripheral surface of each of said unit cells, the tensile elongation of said high polymer sheet being selected to cause the sheet to provide insulation between positive and negative electrodes of the battery when the container is deformed.

5. (currently amended) A lithium based battery according to claim 2, wherein said positive electrode and said negative electrode of each of said unit cells are respectively formed on one surface of a positive collector and one surface of a negative collector in such a manner as to face to each other with said separator put therebetween; and

an ion impermeable and extensible high polymer sheet having a tensile elongation percentage of 1 % or more is disposed between adjacent two of said unit cells and/or on the outer peripheral surface of each of said unit cells, the tensile elongation of said high polymer sheet being selected to cause the sheet to provide insulation between positive and negative electrodes of the battery when the container is deformed.

6. (currently amended) A lithium based battery according to claim 1, wherein said extensible high polymer sheet is made from at least one kind selected from a group consisting of ~~a polyamide based elastomer~~, a polyurethane based elastomer, ~~a polyolefin based elastomer~~, ~~a polyester based elastomer~~, ~~a styrene based elastomer~~, ~~a vinyl chloride based elastomer~~, and a fluorine based elastomer.

7. (currently amended) A lithium based battery according to claim 3, wherein said extensible high polymer sheet is made from at least one kind selected from a group consisting of ~~a polyamide based elastomer~~, a polyurethane based elastomer, ~~a polyolefin based elastomer~~, ~~a polyester based elastomer~~, ~~a styrene based elastomer~~, ~~a vinyl chloride based elastomer~~, and a fluorine based elastomer.

8. (previously presented) A lithium based battery according to any one of claims 1 to 7,

wherein said extensible high polymer sheet has a tensile elongation percentage of 200% or more throughout the temperature range -20 to +80 °C.